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GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(Part-time)

P.J.H. CLARKE, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

for the

YEAR 1948



GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1948

To The Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 1948.

The year 1948 was especially noteworthy because the National Health Service Act 1946, the National Insurance Act 1946 and the National Assistance Act 1948 became operative on the 5th July. The introduction of the above Acts did not appreciably alter the duties of the Medical Officer of Health of this District.

I assumed duty as your Medical Officer of Health on 14th June 1948 and I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and of the Public Health Committee for their support and co-operation.

I have pleasure in acknowledging the help and co-operation of my fellow officers of your Council and my indebtedness to your Chief Sanitary Inspector and the District Inspectors for their ungrudging assistance. I must also mention my appreciation of the efficient administrative and clerical assistance received from Mr. S.A. Seamans.

It also gives me pleasure to acknowledge the support of the County Medical Officer of Health and his staff and also that of the Public Health Laboratory Service and the co-operation of all general practitioners concerned.

I wish to comment particularly on the introduction during the year, by your Clerk, of an informal weekly conference attended by the Engineer and Surveyor, the Chief Sanitary Inspector and myself. Such a conference, to my mind, is of immense advantage to the Medical Officer of Health of a County District acting in a part-time capacity to a number of Authorities. The Medical Officer of Health learns at first hand of the up-to-date position of relevant Council affairs and discusses problems with his colleagues as well as representing any points of his own. In this way the team spirit is intensified and problems are solved in a fraction of the time necessitated via "the usual channels". An outlook in conformity with the undermentioned motto pervades the conference:-

"What is difficult usually takes a little time;
What seems impossible just takes a little longer".

(A) COMMENTS ON GENERAL STATISTICS

(1) The estimated population increased by 340.

(2) The Birth Rate showed a slight decrease compared with 1947 and almost exactly corresponded with the overall rate for England and Wales.

(3) The Infantile Mortality Rate showed an appreciable reduction compared with 1947 and was only slightly over half of the overall rate for England and Wales.

(4) The Death Rate showed a small decrease compared with 1947 and was slightly lower than the overall rate for England and Wales.

(5) Cardio vascular diseases (heart and blood vessels) and Cancer continued to be the two greatest causes of deaths.

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(B) GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	79,898 acres
Population (Registrar Generals figure)			18,810	
Inhabited Houses	5,695	
Rateable Value	£73,988	
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...		£280	

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Total	164	170	Total	8	2
Legitimate	160	157	Legitimate	8	2
Illegitimate	4	13	Illegitimate	-	-
<u>LIVE BIRTH RATE</u>	Per 1,000 Civilian Population				17.7
	England and Wales				17.9

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under one year:

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Total	-	6
Legitimate	-	6
Illegitimate	-	-

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	18.0
England and Wales	34.0

DEATHS

All causes:	Total	186
	M	85
	F	101

<u>DEATH RATE</u>	Per 1,000 Civilian Population	9.8
	England and Wales	10.8

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(C) COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL TABLE FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS

	1946	1947	1948	England and Wales 1948	London (Administrative County) 1948
Estimated Population	18,010	18,470	18,810	43,502,000	3,374,000
Live Births	369	386	334	776,971	16,147
Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population	20.5	20.9	17.7	17.9	20.1
Total Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	9	15	6	26,766	517
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	24.4	38.9	18.0	34.0	31.0
Total Deaths	218	222	186	469,897	13,432
Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population	12.1	12.0	9.8	10.8	11.6

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(D) CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH (REGISTRAR GENERALS FIGURES)

	M	F	Total
Diseases of the Cardio Vascular System	39	51	90
(a) Heart Diseases	27M	36F	
(b) Intracranial Vascular Lesions (Stroke, etc)	9M	11F	
(c) Other diseases of circulatory system	3M	4F	
Cancer (all sites)			11 20 31
(a) Stomach or Duodenum	2M	3F	
(b) All other sites	9M	17F	
Diseases of Respiratory System			11 6 17
(a) Bronchitis	5M	1F	
(b) Pneumonia	3M	3F	
(c) Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Lungs)	1M	2F	
(d) Other Respiratory Diseases	2M	0F	
Nephritis (Disease of Kidney)	5	4	9
Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	2	3
Diseases of the Digestive System	1	2	3
(a) Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1M	0F	
(b) Other Digestive Diseases	0M	2F	
Premature Birth			2
Measles (aged 6 years)			1
Syphilitic Disease	1		1
Gonogenital Malformation; Birth Injury;			
Infant Diseases			4
Road Traffic Accidents	4		4
Suicide	3		3
Other Violent Causes (unspecified)	1	4	5
All other causes	8	5	13
TOTALS	85	101	186

(E) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) - COMPILED FROM NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED

Disease	Age							Unknown	Total	Admitted Hospital	Deaths
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25+				
Measles	4	34	54	155	27	11	7	1	293		1
Whooping Cough	2	5	3	9	1				20		
Scarlet Fever		1	2	13	1	2			19	8	
Acute Pneumonia	1	1					4		6		
Erysipelas								5	5		
Food Poisoning								3	3		
Puerperal Pyrexia						2			2		
Paratyphoid Fever						1			1	1	
Ac. Poliomyelitis			1						1	1	
TOTALS									350	10	1

- (1) Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis). One case was notified in a child of 3½ years. Contacts were traced and all necessary precautions taken. No secondary cases occurred.
- (2) The case of Paratyphoid Fever was considered to have become infected outside the District and to be associated with the Ipswich and district outbreak of December 1947/January 1948.
- (3) The greatest incidence of Measles occurred during the months of April, May, June and July the figures for these months being 49, 80, 117 and 35 respectively.

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(F) TUBERCULOSIS

- (1) New cases notified: Pulmonary (Lungs) 6 Males 6 Females
Non-Pulmonary (glands, bones and joints, etc) 8 Males 3 Females
- (2) Ages of new cases: Pulmonary: Males: 23; 68; 31; 20; 20; 47.
Females: 10; 24; 27; 53; 37; 24.
Non-Pulmonary: Males: 13; 16; 13; 7; 56; 31; 14; 19.
Females: 24; 39; 6.
- (3) Cases "crossed off the register as recovered" during year:

Pulmonary:	Males 1	Females 3
Non-Pulmonary:	Males 2	Females 0

(4) Died during the year Pulmonary: 1 Male 2 Females
 Non-Pulmonary: 1 Male 2 Females

(5) Cases on the Register at the end of the Year:

Pulmonary:	28 Males; 17 Females	Total 45
Non-Pulmonary:	21 Males; 20 Females	Total 41

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(G) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION (figures kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health).

(1) Percentage of pre-School children immunized	= 49.8
(2) Percentage of all children immunized	= 62.9
(3) Booster treatment during 1948	= 24

The efficacy of immunization against Diphtheria was reflected in the fact that not a single case of the disease was notified during the year.

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(H) SECTION 47 OF NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Four cases were investigated but action was not considered necessary under this Section.

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(I) WATER SUPPLIES

I am indebted to Mr.E.A.Morgan, Chief Sanitary Inspector, for the following report:-

- (1) With the extension of the mains supply to Ashfield, there was no necessity, as in previous years, for water to be carted to that Parish. With the exception of a very few, all public supplies were satisfactory in quality, but the majority of private supplies tested, being from shallow wells, were unreliable both in quantity and quality.
- (2) Of the 59 Bacteriological samples taken from piped supplies, 37 were from the same source. 19 samples proved to be unsatisfactory - 17 being from the one source. Satisfactory results from this particular supply were obtained after investigation and treatment of the supply by chlorination. None of the 4 Chemical samples taken from piped supplies was unsatisfactory, except in relation to their excessive iron content.
- (3) None of the water supplies of the area has a plumbo-solvent action.
- (4) Owners of private supplies found to be contaminated have been notified and/or interviewed and advised as to the best method of treatment of the affected supply. In the majority of cases this was found to be the internal rendering of the well, or the removal of a nearby source of contamination.
- (5) The number of dwelling houses supplied from public main supplies are as follows:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Laid on to properties</u>	<u>Taken from Stand-pipes</u>
Ashbocking	11	36
Ashfield-cum-Thorpe	45	4
Barham	11	20
Bramford	572	-
Buxhall	3	6
Creeting St Mary	28	38
Crowfield	22	51
Debenham	128	90
Framnsden	17	3
Gosbeck	24	18
Great Bricett	6	20
Great Finborough	5	18
Haughley	130	54
Hemingstone	2	3
Henley	10	13
Mickfield	18	25
Pettaugh	7	34
Ringshall	8	-
Stonham Aspal	56	78
Stonham Earl	9	12
Stonham Parva	36	66
Stowupland	272	-
Winston	25	16
Wetherden	-	14
<u>Totals</u>	<u>1,445</u>	<u>619</u>

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(J) REGIONAL WATER SCHEME

I am indebted to Mr.R.C.Riches, Engineer and Surveyor, for the following report:-

A further step forward towards the realization of a comprehensive scheme for the whole District was made when the Ministry of Health directed an Inquiry to be held on the Council's proposal to sink a 24" diameter borehole at an estimated cost of £3,900.

The Inquiry was held in the Council Chamber on the 30th September 1948 when it was stated that the Council's ultimate daily requirements would be in the region of 1,000,000 gallons.

During the year approximately 8 miles of water main were laid in the Parishes of Ashfield, Debenham, Framsden and Winston with a "link up" at Pettaugh with the Crowfield-Stonham Scheme.

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(K) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the following report:-

Schemes have been prepared for the Parishes of Bramford, Claydon, Debenham and Great Blakenham and have been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

A scheme is also in course of preparation for the Parish

of Needham Market which will also incorporate parts of the Parish of Creeting St Mary.

In addition, the Council has also agreed to have schemes prepared for a number of other Parishes in the near future.

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(L) HOUSING

(1) The result of the Preliminary Housing Survey, as detailed in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report for 1947, showed that there were 509 (11.2%) of the houses surveyed in Category 5, i.e. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at a reasonable cost.

The definition of a Category 5 house is in itself sufficient comment with reference to the 509 such houses noted above.

A detailed survey, particularly of those houses in Category 5, is now in progress.

(2) I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the following report:-

During the year under review, the erection of new houses did not proceed so rapidly as one would have liked, 59 houses having been completed, with 48 in course of erection. In addition, 11 houses were completed under licence, by private enterprise.

This brought the total of new buildings completed since the war by the Gipping Rural District Council to 100 at end of year.

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(M) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Details are given in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

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(N) FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

No proper outbreak of food poisoning occurred during the year. Three cases were notified. One was a Salmonella Typhimurium infection of a mild nature. It was not possible to trace the actual source of infection. The two remaining cases appeared to be of a "toxin type". The patients had fully recovered and the food under suspicion was not available for sampling at the time of investigation.

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(O) MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE FORM 572 (with regard to Inspection of Factories etc).

A copy has been forwarded to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, as requested, and further copies will be attached to the copies of this Annual Report forwarded to the Ministry of Labour and National Service and the County Council.

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(P) SOME PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL DURING 1948

- (1) Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.
- (2) School Medical and Dental Inspections.
- (3) Diphtheria Immunization at Child Welfare Clinics and Schools.
- (4) Health Visiting.
- (5) Domiciliary Midwifery.
- (6) Tuberculosis Medical Service.
- (7) Venereal Disease Service, up to 4th July 1948.
- (8) Ambulance Service.
- (9) Mental Welfare.
- (10) Welfare Services for aged, infirm and handicapped persons under Section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948 with effect from 5th July 1948.
- (11) Home Nursing.
- (12) Home Help.

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(Q) CONCLUSION

The work of a Medical Officer of Health of a Rural District may not always be spectacular but the continuous routine, seldom necessitating a report to Committee, when approached with commonsense and patience usually produce the desired result, i.e. a satisfactory state of the Public Health.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

P.S.H. Clarke

P.J.H. CLARKE

Medical Officer of Health.

28th September 1949.

GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

E.A.MORGAN, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

for the

YEAR 1948

GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1948

To The Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am privileged to present my Fifth Annual Report for your perusal and consideration.

The appointment of a second Additional Sanitary Inspector assisted considerably in the more efficient administration of the Department's work. Mr.E.G.Hall, who came to us from Westminster City Council, has, since the commencement of his duties on January 1st, shown himself to be a very keen, conscientious and likeable officer. Consequent upon this appointment the area was divided into two Districts for general duties - this term covering the whole range of a Sanitary Inspector's responsibilities apart from my own work which, in addition to general administration, included supervision of rodent destruction, the Public Cleansing service, building licence system and cowsheds and dairies.

In June the Council and its staff welcomed Dr.P.J.H.Clarke who succeeded Dr.S.A.Maclean as Medical Officer of Health. Dr.Clarke's personality has assisted in a large measure in producing that degree of co-operation which is so essential between a Medical Officer of Health and Chief Sanitary Inspector, and my heartfelt thanks are due to him, as well as to members of my own and other Departments, for the support and assistance given in dealing with those problems which require mutual discussion. An admirable method which has been adopted in order to obtain an even fuller exchange of information has been the weekly meeting of the Clerk, Engineer and Surveyor, Medical Officer of Health and myself. At this "conference" all major matters of interest to other Departments are referred to and discussed. From personal experience one can readily say that this method has a great deal to commend it.

In concluding this preface to my Report I should like to extend my sincerest thanks to you, Mr.Chairman, as well as to all other members of the Council who have shown by their continued interest in the work of the Department that they are fully aware of its responsibilities and difficulties.

I am, Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

E.A.Morgan
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

(i) Housing visits and re-visits:-

Sanitation and Housing Act Surveys	...	1,672
Building Licences (Defence Regulation 56A)	...	469
		<u>2,141</u>

(ii) The following list excludes those enumerated above:-

Applications for Council Houses	...	377
Water Supplies	...	463
Drains and Sanitary Accommodation	...	223
Cesspools and Sewage Works	...	117
Cesspool Emptying	...	22
Structural Defects	...	615
Overcrowding	...	65
Tents, Vans, etc	...	93
Schools	...	7
Pig and Poultry keeping	...	10
Filthy and verminous premises	...	78
Rodent Destruction:-		
County Council Campaign	...	33
Ministry of Agriculture Campaign	...	104
Slaughterhouses	...	10
Meat and Other Foods	...	173
Shops Act	...	36
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	159
Milk Supplies	...	15
Infectious Diseases	...	145
Factories and Workplaces	...	29
Refuse Removal	...	411
Nightsoil Removal	...	184
Rivers Pollution	...	41
Ditches and Watercourses	...	99
Salvage	...	128
		<u>3,637</u>
ADD visits recorded under (i)		<u>2,141</u>
<u>Sum Total for 1948</u>		<u>5,778</u>

In addition 51 meetings of Council and various Committees were also attended.

HOUSING SURVEY

With the completion of the preliminary survey in 1947, a detailed survey of all houses in Category 5 ("unfit for habitation and beyond repair") was commenced, and by the end of 1948, 317 houses had been so inspected. When the whole of the 509 houses categorised as suitable for demolition have been inspected, it is intended to "represent" to Council the worst properties in each Parish for action under the Housing Act.

SANITATION SURVEYS

Whilst extensive surveys similar to those of 1947 were not carried out during the year under review, much useful work was done in bringing up to date the knowledge previously acquired. Additional surveys were also made in the Parishes of Coddenham, Great Finborough and Stonham Aspal. Progress is gradually being made towards the provision of a standard of amenities

more in accordance with the needs and outlook of today. Whilst not even "the most starry-eyed idealist" anticipates seeing the whole of the Gipping area sewered within the lifetime of the present generation, it is hoped that the next decade will certainly find this amenity being provided for the benefit of those living in the more densely populated parishes.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING DEFENCE REGULATION 56A

As from July 1st no licence was required in respect of building work to private houses involving a cost of less than £100. Although local authorities are still concerned with licences for housing repairs, etc., costing more than £100, the new rule meant a considerable relief in respect of the work involved in the inspection, issuing and supervision of these Licences and this enabled the Department to concentrate more effectively upon other and (let it be whispered) more essential aspects of its work.

Even so a total of 354 Ordinary and 15 "U" licences involving a total expenditure of £35,924 were issued during the year.

APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

Reports continued to be compiled in respect of the domestic circumstances of all applicants for Council houses. It is considered that these proved of immense value to the Chairman and Members of the Tenants Selection Committee who have the extremely invidious task of selecting the fortunate few, thereby inviting the wrath of the unsuccessful majority. It has always struck me as rather ironical that the "disappointed many" are often considered (by those who have not the responsibility of making the decision) to have been far more deserving than those actually chosen. One can but hope that the day will soon dawn when the Council has succeeded in erecting sufficient houses to meet the needs of the overcrowded, the badly-housed and even those who, whilst not living in cramped or crowded conditions, are anxious to commence their married lives "away from mother".

WATER SUPPLIES

The mains water supply services of the Council now cover 24 Parishes or portions of 24 Parishes, as can be seen from the list appended to the Medical Officer of Health's Report. Apart from an excessive iron content and a high degree of hardness, these supplies are normally reliable. It was, therefore, rather disconcerting to find that extremely bad analysis reports were being received as the result of bacteriological samples taken from the mains supply to various parts of the Parish of Stowupland. The chlorination of the supply at its source produced a marked improvement and this system of treatment has been continued. "Check" samples are taken periodically in order to ascertain whether the necessary standard of quality is being maintained.

Although one of the less densely populated Parishes, Ashfield, by obtaining an extension of the mains from Winston at the end of 1947, can now be removed from the Council's list of Parishes where the carting of water is an essential service in times of drought. Prior to this the only public source of

supply in Ashfield was (as may be gleaned from previous Annual Reports) an open crater created by a land-mine and known locally as "the Bomb-hole". How the people of Ashfield managed before this Hitlerian donation I have no personal knowledge, but would assume that the School-pond (an extremely foul-smelling, stagnant one) must have been the chief source for nourishment and ablution.

A total of 180 bacteriological and 20 chemical samples were taken from various sources of supply - both public and private. The results may be summarised as follows:-

Type of Supply	No. of sources	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
<u>Public - Bacteriological</u>			
Piped	18	40	19
Borewell	30	32	13
Deep well	7	6	5
Shallow well	5	2	13
<u>Private - Bacteriological</u>			
Borewell	8	7	1
Deep well	4	1	5
Shallow well	20	6	28
Other sources (ponds)	2	-	2
<u>Public - Chemical</u>			
Piped	4	4	-
Borewell	7	6	1
Deep well	-	-	-
Shallow well	4	1	3
<u>Private - Chemical</u>			
Borewell	2	1	1
Deep well	2	2	-
Shallow well	-	-	-
Other sources (ponds)	1	-	1

As the result of action taken and advice given in connection with private supplies (including the service of 6 Informal Notices and 1 Abatement Notice) an improvement was effected in the majority of those which analysis had shown to be unsatisfactory. In addition to this 1 pond used as a source of water for domestic purposes was cleansed, 1 house connected to the mains water service and 3 pumps repaired.

DRAINS AND SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

This item is chiefly concerned with the provision of new drainage and sanitary accommodation to existing premises, rather than the reconstruction or re-laying of old systems. It is surprising to find that in a number of instances joints have to be remade due to their being found to be incapable of passing a water-test at its first application. It is certain that a higher standard of craftsmanship, together with a stringent system of supervision will be necessary when the wholesale connection of drainage systems to public sewers is undertaken. It would also appear that some clarification of

the position regarding the necessity for the deposit of plans in connection with the installation of new works of drainage in an existing building is urgently required.

During 1948 the following items were carried out as the result of 29 Informal and Abatement Notices:-

- 1 Water-closet structure repaired;
- 8 pail closet structures repaired;
- 6 pail closet structures rebuilt;
- 1 nightsoil pail replaced;
- 1 drainage system reconstructed;
- 4 premises provided with additional drainage;
- 5 lengths of obstructed drain cleared;
- 1 privy converted into a pail closet;
- 2 yard areas relaid.

CESSEPOOLS AND SEWAGE WORKS CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The delivery of the Council's own cesspool emptier (an 1100 gallon Shelvoke and Drewry vehicle) on December 13th ended the long period of waiting during which the arrangements for the emptying of the cesspools receiving sink waste and yard drainage at Wilson's Dwellings and Henniker Road, Bramford, had been carried out either by the employment of private contractors or by vehicles owned by neighbouring authorities. Whilst deeply indebted to colleagues in other Districts, their vehicles, quite naturally, could not always be available when required by us, and although a more regular service was provided by private contractors, their efficiency did not quite reach the same standard. The provision of cesspools as the sewage disposal system for the post-war Council house schemes in smaller Parishes would also have placed an intolerable financial burden on the Housing Revenue Account had cesspool emptying not been undertaken as part of the Council's cleansing service. Between the date of acquisition of the cesspool emptier and the end of the year a total of 13 cesspools were emptied.

The Haughley sewage plant continues to be overloaded and the position is aggravated even further by the addition of the post-war Council houses without any enlargement of the plant or improvement in the method of treatment. This course of action cannot be undertaken at the present time without a corresponding reduction in the adjoining land which is being used for food production, and would in any case be merely a palliative, the present conditions being again repeated in the course of a few years. The only solution is the scrapping of the existing system and the installation of a completely new plant.

Periodical visits and supervision were still required to maintain the private sewage plant at Broomspath Estate, Stowupland, in a satisfactory state of operation. Even so its structural condition leaves much to be desired and little progress towards its reconstruction was achieved during 1948.

The absence of adequate arrangements for the hygienic disposal of sink waste and excreta at a Council housing site comprising 38 bungalows attracted considerable publicity during the year. This is not, of course, the only legacy which the present Council acquired at the last re-organisation of boundaries in 1934, but like far too many of its other legacies this property has proved to be a great liability than an asset.

It is gratifying to note that action is now being taken not only for the provision of sewerage arrangements for this particular property, but also for the inclusion of a very large portion of the Parish in the same scheme.

STRUCTURAL DEFECTS

With an additional District Sanitary Inspector and a relaxation of many of the restrictions on the use of materials which had previously been in short supply, the service and enforcement of Notices for the abatement of structural defects became correspondingly easier. The chief difficulty which now remains is the relationship between rent - controlled at pre-war level - and the cost of repairs which stands at three or four times its 1939 rate. Whilst there are still far too many property owners who regard property as a source of profitable investment rather than the homes of human beings, a certain degree of consideration must be felt towards the circumstances of those who receive such a small return from rents that the service of a notice for minor repairs results in their being compelled to draw on other, and often meagre, sources of income in order to comply with the local authority's requirements. It would be far wiser for these people to face up to the alternative of disposing of their property in the open market. In any case it should not be the tenant who is meeting his full legal obligation with regard to the payment of rent who should be made to suffer.

During the year 91 Informal and 5 Abatement Notices were served for the remedying of structural defects, as a result of which the following works were carried out:-

- 29 roofs repaired and rendered weathertight;
- 1 chimney stack reconstructed;
- 7 chimney stacks repaired;
- Pointing to 3 chimney stacks renewed;
- 4 defective flashings to chimney stacks renewed;
- 5 lengths of eaves guttering renewed;
- 3 rainwater pipes renewed;
- 3 lengths of bargeboard renewed;
- 2 dangerous and defective external walls rebuilt;
- 4 external walls repaired;
- External wall plaster of 10 properties renewed;
- 13 external walls rendered damp-proof;
- Pointing of brickwork in 4 external walls renewed;
- 28 ceilings replastered;
- 30 internal walls replastered;
- 1 internal wall rendered damp-proof;
- 4 doors and 2 door-frames repaired;
- 15 windows and frames repaired or replaced;
- 2 sash-cords to windows replaced;
- 8 boarded floors renewed;
- 1 brick floor concreted;
- 1 staircase repaired;
- 4 staircase treads renewed;
- 18 defective firegrates repaired or replaced;
- 2 ovens repaired;
- 5 wash-boilers replaced.

At December 31st, 18 Informal Notices were outstanding.

OVERTROWDING

It has not yet been possible to make any detailed survey

of the extent of overcrowding in the area. Although cases are recorded as a result of investigation into the circumstances of applicants for Council houses, letters of complaint from persons regarding the overcrowded conditions of themselves or others and the Housing Survey - which is still concerned with Category 5 houses - no true picture will, it is considered, be obtained until another national investigation is carried out on a similar line to that under the Housing Acts of 1935 and 1936. It is appreciated that this cannot be done for some time yet and, in the meantime, our chief aim is to keep nibbling at the problem and endeavouring to deal with the more flagrant cases, whilst preventing or discouraging a repetition of the circumstances, especially where the existence of a state of overcrowding has proved a "stepping stone" to the tenancy of a Council house.

TENTS, VANS, ETC

Camping sites occupied by caravans do not constitute a major problem in the Gipping area, although the creation of an eyesore by one individual would, were it not for the introduction of the Town and Country Planning Act in July, have caused an administrative headache.

Although not advocating the retention of caravans as a permanent feature, it must be agreed that, as a result of periodical supervision, the condition in which they and the sites they occupy are maintained is, generally speaking, satisfactory. The type of structure used has also been considerably improved in recent years, the streamlined trailer caravan bearing no resemblance whatever in appearance to the older type of vehicle. The accommodation for sleeping and domestic purposes in both cases, however, is extremely restricted and one welcomes, in anticipation, the day when the sole use of these vehicles is as a temporary "break" from the routine of everyday life.

A total of 23 caravans occupying 14 sites were licensed during the year.

SCHOOLS

In keeping with the greater portion of the area the provision of a drinking water supply or a satisfactory standard of sanitary accommodation is not a noticeable feature of many of the schools. This is unfortunate as the provision of mains water and a satisfactory standard of sanitation is an essential prerequisite for the teaching of hygiene to children. Very few visits have been made in recent years to these premises as their supervision is, one understands, entirely a matter for the County Council. At the same time one is not entirely ignorant of the position and it is, as in other spheres, only by close co-operation between the two authorities that improvements can from time to time be effected.

PIG AND POULTRY KEEPING

The creation of a nuisance is still the sole ground for interference in connection with the improper keeping of animals. One is fortunate to be able to report that very little supervision is needed to achieve this state of affairs, and although one sometimes deplores that scraggy hens, dilapidated corrugated structures and other eyesores are not included in the Public Health Act definition of the term "nuisance" there

is, perhaps, more to be thankful for in the fact that the investigation and abatement of these conditions were not included in the list of duties enumerated in the Sanitary Officers' Regulations 1935.

FILTHY AND VERMINOUS PREMISES

Although no precise statistics of the number of filthy and verminous premises in the area are available, a fairly accurate picture of the extent of this problem can be obtained from the number of visits and revisits carried out. These may result from a routine house to house inspection or may be due to the investigation of a complaint. They appear to indicate that only a very small proportion (one cannot say a negligible proportion) of the houses in the area can be regarded as filthy or verminous.

Having regard to the absence of adequate sanitary facilities over a large area of the District, one must commend the majority of housewives on their ability to maintain a high degree of cleanliness in their homes. Many even of those who fall far short of this ideal state of affairs need very little encouragement in order to achieve a consistently maintained measure of improvement. There remains, however, the "hard core" whom no amount of persuasion or encouragement will bestir, and one would be inclined to invoke the law were it not for the fact that the root of the trouble is often found to be mental deficiency. These people are not incapable of looking after themselves, are sometimes the mothers of a young family and action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 is, therefore, out of the question. In no case was enforcement of this section carried out during the year, but its presence on the Statute Book was sufficient to assist in obtaining the voluntary removal to Tattingstone Hospital of a spinster of 78 who had been a considerable source of trouble for many years.

11 disinfections of verminous premises were carried out by the Rodent Operative during the year.

RODENT DESTRUCTION

(a) COUNTY COUNCIL CAMPAIGN

At the request of the County Council's Land Agent, assistance for a further twelve months was given in the organisation and supervision of a rat destruction campaign.

These campaigns necessitate the appointment of voluntary "collectors" who are responsible for accepting the carcases of rats destroyed by private individuals. The collector is reimbursed for his payments for these carcases and their disposal, but receives nothing in respect of his own services. One collector has even been asked to pay out 4d per carcase (instead of the normal 2d) in respect of rats killed and brought to him on a Sunday and, as many carcases are brought to a collector at extremely awkward times (mealtimes or the late hours of the night), the task of disposal, whilst not onerous, cannot either be regarded as pleasant. It is considered that some recognition of the services rendered by these collectors could be made in the form of a lump sum gratuity or, perhaps more appropriately, as a pro rata payment.

The result of the campaign from October 1st 1947 to 30th September 1948 was that the destruction of 5,483 rats was achieved, the financial reimbursement involving a sum of £48.6.10.

RODENT DESTRUCTION

(b) MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES CAMPAIGN

This was the first full twelve months in which the direction for rat destruction previously under the control of the Ministry of Food was transferred to the above-named Ministry. One's contacts at Regional and District level are the same and it is, therefore, difficult at first glance to see any noticeable reason for the change over. At the same time impending legislation will complete the process, by not only placing direction in the hands of one Ministry, but, broadly speaking, the supervision, administration and treatment of all land infested by rodents in the hands of the local authority. The complete picture cannot be given in a few words, but sufficient has been said to indicate that the absurd situation of being unable to deal with "agricultural rats" infesting land within a few yards of property over-run by "urban rats" is apparently soon to be a thing of the past.

It was anticipated that the introduction of a "free-service scheme" for private dwellings as from April 1st would result in an overwhelming increase in the number of applications for the treatment of infested premises. This did not, however, prove to be the case and even the issuing of circulars to the W.V.S. and Women's Institutes had no appreciable effect. Apart from a periodic survey of a large number of Parishes involving 1,474 visits, sewer treatments in Haughley, refuse tip treatments at Bosmere, Claydon and Lion Barn Farm and the Council's salvage yard at Needham Market, 11 business premises and 134 private dwellings were visited in order to deal with minor infestations, the total known "kill" being 695 rats and 43 mice.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The centralisation of slaughtering in the centres of population at Stowmarket and Ipswich is a war-time measure which has, rightly, been maintained not only for the better distribution of meat, but also for the more efficient control of meat inspection. That the standard of inspection at these slaughterhouses is efficient is shown by the extremely small amount of meat which is found or reported, to be unsound in the butchers shops of this area. Whilst the inspectorial staff of this area exists as a "second line of defence", the fact that they were only called into action on three occasions throughout the whole twelve months is a testimony to the vigilance of their colleagues employed by the neighbouring authorities, and effectively disposes of the criticism which is levelled from time to time by those who possess little knowledge of the standard of the meat inspection work carried out by Sanitary Inspectors.

10 persons were for the first time issued with Licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933, and the Licences of 4 other persons were renewed for a further 12 months.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The national campaign for an improvement in the methods adopted for the preparation, storage and handling of food received an added impetus during the year in certain parts of the country by the organisation of lectures and exhibitions. Unfortunately it is virtually impossible to achieve success in this direction in a scattered rural area where the

administrative centre is not the geographical centre. Advantage is, however, taken of routine visits to food premises of all kinds to impress upon traders and their employees the urgent necessity for scrupulous cleanliness, and it is felt that this, coupled with national and local press publicity is, insofar as this area is concerned, the best means of achieving the desired result.

The following articles were prevented from being used for human consumption:-

237 lbs of beef; 33½ lbs of bacon; 4-6 lb tins of corned beef; 2-12 oz tins of corned beef; 1-1 lb tin of stewed steak; 1-12 oz tin of meat loaf; 70 lbs of skate; 56 lbs of haddock; 28 lbs of kippers; 3-1 lb tins of Grade 2 salmon; 6-15 oz tins of pilchards; 5-12 oz tins of mussels; 2-4 oz tins of sardines; 1-4 oz tins of Grade 2 salmon; 1-4 oz tin of pilchards; 1-2 lb tin of baked beans; 24 - 1½ lb tins of mixed vegetables; 1-1¼ lb tin of peas; 1-1 lb tin of peas; 1-1 lb tin of baked beans; 1-1 lb tin of tomatoes; 3-12 oz tins of peas; 1-2 lb tin fruit salad; 1-2 lb tin of pears; 2-1 lb 14 oz tins of apricots; 1-1½ lb tin of grapefruit; 4-1¼ lb tins of plums; 2-1 lb tins of peaches; 1-1 lb tin of cherries; 1-4½ lb tin of blackberry and apple; 1-1½ lb tin of plum jam; 1-14 oz jar of mincemeat; 85½ lbs of butter; 18¾ lbs of cheese; 9-1 lb tins of evaporated milk; 7-14½ oz tins of evaporated milk; 2-14 oz tins of condensed milk; 36 lbs of tea; 25 lbs of treacle toffee; 14 lbs of prunes; 4 lbs of oats; 1-2 lb tin of syrup.

SHOPS ACTS

36 visits were made to various shops in an attempt to secure compliance with certain of the requirements of Section 10 of the Shops Act 1934. It is extremely difficult, and in some instances impossible, to set up and enforce a standard in a rural area and the Act apparently appreciates this; but it is considered that the larger premises, at least, should be required to have a uniform standard and be comparable in respect of heating, lighting, washing facilities and sanitary conveniences with their counterparts in towns.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES

MILK SUPPLIES

11 persons were registered as wholesale milk producers, 4 as producer-retailers and 1 person relinquished his licence during the year. Both the Ipswich and Stowmarket Co-operative Societies were again granted supplementary licences for the retail sale of pasteurised milk, and the County Council licensed 9 persons as T.T. producers.

It was decided during the year, that to reduce the number of official visitors in connection with applications for the production of graded milks, advice and supervision could best be left to the County Sanitary Officer and his staff, they being responsible for recommending approval, or otherwise, of the applications to the County Council as licensing authority. The only exceptions to this arrangement have been in the case of those who have specifically invited your Chief Sanitary Inspector to be present at the same time as a member of the County Sanitary Department, or who made their application to be registered as wholesale producers well in advance of notifying

their intention to produce graded milk.

In this small way some attempt has been made to reassure the farming community that officials (unless "dressed in a little brief authority") have no real desire to be officious or to hinder them in their efforts, and that where advice and guidance has been necessary it has been as much in the farmer's own interest as for the benefit of the milk-consuming public.

It was similarly decided, in view of the multiplicity of organisations and authorities who were sampling milk for this, that ~~and~~ the other, not to add to their number. In view of the legal responsibility placed upon a local authority's officers this may, superficially, seem a retrograde step. Frankly, however, this does seem to be a matter in which simplicity in procedure and administration is urgently required, and it is sincerely hoped that impending legislation in connection with milk production and distribution will endeavour to limit the number of different bodies engaged in milk sampling, or at least define more clearly their "spheres of operations".

As the result of complaints received from consumers 4 samples of milk were taken, but in only 1 case was the sample below standard.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

A great deal of misunderstanding exists, even amongst Sanitary Inspectors, regarding their role in the investigation of infectious disease. This is, strictly speaking, a duty which lies within the purview of the Medical Officer of Health and is, for that reason, given suitable prominence in his Report. Valuable liaison work can, however, be carried out by Sanitary Inspectors in the preparation of reports for the Medical Officer of Health in those cases which are notified during his periods of duty in other areas. So far as it lies within the ability of non-medical personnel to do so, your Inspectors have always been readily prepared to undertake this work whenever it has been necessary. This does not prevent our main endeavours from being reserved for eliminating or reducing the influence of those factors which can be regarded as predisposing causes of the spread of infectious disease.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

The 29 visits to factories and workplaces represents approximately one visit for each 3 registered premises in the area. This figure should be far higher, and at least one visit should (and could) be made at six-monthly intervals were it not for pre-occupation with other aspects of the Department's work. Some consolation for this state of affairs is gained, however, when it is found that even the inspectorate employed under the Ministry of Labour and National Service is unable - due, presumably, to insufficiency of numbers - to deal with the notification of changes occurring in occupation or the setting up of new premises, and the usual process of notification has on occasion been reversed when the Local Authority has notified H.M.Factories Inspector of the establishment of new factories or workplaces.

REFUSE AND NIGHTSOIL REMOVAL

Although delivery of the new cesspool emptier-cum-nightsoil

collection vehicle was made in the middle of December, it was not used for the latter purpose until the commencement of 1949. The purchase of this vehicle and the making of a welcome agreement with the Ipswich Corporation to accept these noxious matters into their sewerage system at a charge of 3d per 1,000 gallons, has, as from the commencement of January 1949, enabled the primitive methods of "ponding" and of dumping on agricultural land, which previously operated, to be dispensed with. It is estimated that approximately 250,000 gallons of nightsoil were removed by the old tanker during 1948.

The reversion of Lion Barn Farm to the Council, and its occupation by the Cleansing Foreman, enabled a start to be made towards the more efficient organisation and administration of the Cleansing services. Although no work was carried out during 1948 in connection with the tipping site (which had over a period of many years deteriorated into a deplorable condition whilst under the control of a former refuse and nightsoil removal contractor), its possession was a step forward towards the time when by dint of hard work it could become a "controlled tip" in the fullest sense of the term.

The problems created by the introduction of a 44 hour week in place of a 47 hour week were successfully dealt with by a rearrangement of the collection schedule, eliminating Saturday morning work and making greater use of the emergency vehicle (a "museum piece" of 1933 vintage which is long overdue for replacement in 1949).

It was agreed by the Council to provide the men with complete suits of protective clothing for use during inclement weather as well as the overalls which are normally worn. Although no attempt is made to "nurse" the men, it has been found that by fostering the team-spirit and getting the men to realise that they will get fair treatment and the fullest consideration of any grievance or difficulty which may occur, a far higher output and standard of service than could normally be expected has been achieved. The Cleansing team during the greater portion of the year consisted of a Foreman, a refuse vehicle driver-loader and two loaders, a nightsoil vehicle driver-loader and two loaders and one man engaged for baling salvage and general assistance. Towards the end of 1948 this team was supplemented by the addition of a man engaged as cesspool-emptier driver whose "mate" was the general assistant referred to previously. It is calculated that the refuse team removes the refuse from 5,916 premises in a fortnight (i.e. 1,353 weekly visits and 3,210 premises once-fortnightly). In order to do this the vehicles have covered a total annual mileage of 14,077, and it is estimated that the weight of refuse removed was 1,820 tons. The nightsoil team empties 1,454 pails once-weekly and 246 pails twice-weekly (or a total of 1,946 pails a week) covering a total annual mileage of 6,811. When it is realised that the net annual cost of the whole of the Cleansing service amounts to about 1d per head per week of the population of the Gipping area its real value can be fully appreciated. There will of course be a slight increase in this figure in future years due to the provision of a new depot, replacement of vehicles, etc. Even so the cost will always be negligible compared with the services rendered.

DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES RIVERS POLLUTION

Although not included under the same heading for the purpose of recording visits, there is, more often than not, a

"common denominator" between ditches, watercourses and rivers as a result of their being generally regarded as sewerage systems which nature has provided free of charge for man's sole use. I am reminded of a recent occurrence in a certain Parish which shall be nameless where a person complained that her neighbours threw their sullage water into a ditch at the rear of their cottages. When asked what happened in her own case she said, with some pride, "Oh, we have a drainage system". On investigation it was found that the drains discharged directly into the same ditch!!

One's greatest "headaches" are caused by the problem concerning sullage water disposal from properties having insufficient garden space and situated in the centre of a community without a sewerage system. Despite the disagreement of the "experts" I shall continue to maintain that sewerage schemes should have priority of installation even over mains water supplies. Sewerage systems can exist without mains water and need not create any insoluble problem, but the provision of a general system of water mains without the means of disposing of the resulting effluent will create (in fact, has in some instances, already created) an almost intolerable situation.

The River Gipping is still with us, but a ray of sunshine has, since the last Annual Report, broken through the gloom which has covered the question of its pollution over the past 20 and more years. As the result of a Ministerial Inquiry our neighbouring authority at Stowmarket has been enabled to take the first steps towards the reconstruction of its sewerage system. When this has been completed we can anticipate that we shall be expected to take similar action "on our side of the fence".

SALVAGE

The collection and disposal of salvaged materials forms part of the Cleansing service and the collection is, for the main part carried out at the same time as the refuse collection. No bonus is payable to the men concerned, it being considered that it forms part of their duties. The tendency of a bonus payment would be, it is true, to increase the quantity of salvage recovered, but this could only be at the expense of the refuse collecting duties for which they are primarily engaged. Under the present system the men, without in any way detracting from the efficiency of the refuse collection scheme, bring in sufficient salvage to keep the baler fully occupied, and this provides a reasonable return to the ratepayers of the District, who are, naturally, the people entitled to benefit.

During 1948 we disposed of:- 39 tons 7 cwt 3 qrs of Waste paper, newspapers, magazines and cardboard; 2 tons 11 cwt of iron; 19½ cwts of bones; 15 cwts of rags and 20 lbs of aluminium; from which the total receipts were £318.3.1d. This represented an increase of almost £50 over the 1947 figures. In addition to this bonuses totalling £21.4.9d for increased collections was also received from the Board of Trade.

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